

A—Nothing in the last three years that I know of. I have negotiated several of them.

Q—What part of Queens County do you own?

A—The Flushing, Bay Side and Creedmore parts.

Q—Do you own as much as 100 per cent in any case?

A—I don't think I have. I had increased the property in cases where I thought the property was low, increased them to what I thought would be its fair market value.

Q—You made reports, didn't you?

A—Yes.

Q—And those reports contained one column showing the assessment for last year?

A—Yes.

Q—And then you put in the assessment for this year?

A—Yes.

Q—Either continuing the old assessment, either raising it, or lowering it, in your judgment?

A—Yes.

Q—And it was entirely your judgment that you worked out?

A—Yes.

Q—That is what you were put there for, to exercise your judgment?

A—The best of my judgment and ability.

Q—How did you help your judgment out?

A—Making inquiries in different ways.

Q—You made inquiries of whom?

A—Inquired of owners.

Q—How many places did you examine?

A—I examined 875 places, about.

Q—You examined 875 places, making personal examinations?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—A good many of those were built on?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—In the town of Flushing?

A—I am not in the town of Flushing.

Q—You are in the town of Flushing?

A—I am in the town of Flushing.

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A—I am in the town of Flushing.

Q—Two hundred thousand dollars increase in this district?

A—Yes.

Q—Well, I am thankful for that bit of information.

A—That is based entirely on your own knowledge?

A—Yes, sir, on my own knowledge and knowledge of the district.

Q—You have to know what the plots are in size.

A—Only approximately.

Q—The map shows that?

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think it is necessary for me to answer.

The Chairman—Just read that question to the witness once more.

Q (reading)—"Was the check drawn to Richard Croker individually or as chairman of the committee?"

The Chairman—You have already stated, as I understand, unequivocally, that you did not give a check to Richard Croker.

The Witness—You did not understand me. The question was: Did you at the time of your increase of salary or did you draw a check to Richard Croker? I said I thought it was an improper question, but I did not say if you ever did it.

The Witness—I think that is an improper question.

The Chairman—The committee directs you to answer the question.

The Witness—I think, as a citizen, I decline to answer.

The Chairman—Well, you are not a citizen, you are a public official.

The Witness—I will answer any question that pertains to my public and official duties.

The Chairman—The committee thinks it material under your employment as an official in a department in the city government.

The Witness—I think that an official has as many rights as a private individual. If there is any charge against me I am willing to answer it. There is no charge against me.

STILL REFUSES TO ANSWER.

The Chairman—We don't care to get your views as to your rights as a citizen; it is for the committee to pass upon the evidence of the question.

Mr. Moss—Perhaps the witness does not understand that the committee is directed to inquire not only into the facts and figures, but the influence controlling them.

The Chairman—The resolution directs us to inquire into the facts and figures, but the influence affecting and controlling them.

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